

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented): An impeller having a disk-like main plate, a blade joined to said main plate, and a side plate having a suction port, characterized in that:

a boss hole is formed in a central portion of said main plate for attaching a boss which engages with a pump shaft to said boss hole,

wherein a step portion is formed around the boss hole, which is formed in said main plate, by drawing so that when a plurality of main plates are piled on one another, a gap is formed by said step portions of adjacent main plates to prevent said adjacent main plates from being adhered to each other.

2. (Previously presented): The impeller as recited in claim 1, characterized in that when said gap is set to be in a range of 0.3 mm to 0.4 mm.

3. (Previously presented): An impeller having a disk-like main plate, a blade joined to said main plate, and a side plate having a suction port, characterized in that:

a radially inner end portion of said blade which is joined to said main plate is rounded near a portion at which said blade is joined to said main plate.

4. (Currently amended): A multistage pump characterized by comprising a plurality of intermediate casings, impellers, as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, housed in respective intermediate casings, and a main shaft for supporting said impellers.

5. (New): A multistage pump characterized by comprising a plurality of intermediate casings, impellers, as recited in claim 2, housed in respective intermediate casings, and a main shaft for supporting said impellers.

6. (New): A multistage pump characterized by comprising a plurality of intermediate casings, impellers, as recited in claim 3, housed in respective intermediate casings, and a main shaft for supporting said impellers.